

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment places the claims in the same form as in the Substitute Specification and Marked-Up Copy submitted with the filing of the application. Also, please accept the Substitute Specification and the Marked-Up copy in which no substantive changes were made to change the scope of the patent. The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice, and to add new claims 16-27.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Mark T. Skoog (Reg. No. 40,178), at (612) 371-5240.

Respectfully submitted,

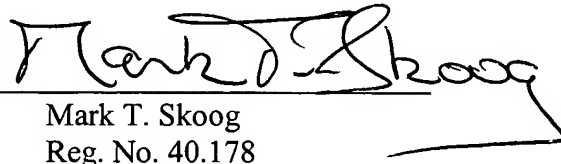


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